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MERCK & CO., INC.;  
MERCK SHARP & DOHME CORP.;  
ORGANON & CO.; and ORGANON LLC

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

KATHERINE O'BRIEN, an individual,

Plaintiff,

v.

MERCK & CO., INC., a New Jersey  
Corporation; MERCK SHARP &  
DOHME CORP., a New Jersey  
Corporation; ORGANON & CO., a  
Delaware Corporation; ORGANON  
LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability  
Company; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO.

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL AND  
REMOVAL OF ACTION UNDER 28  
U.S.C. §§ 1332 (a), 1441(b), AND 1446  
BY DEFENDANTS MERCK & CO.,  
INC., MERCK SHARP & DOHME  
CORP., ORGANON & CO., AND  
ORGANON LLC**

[Ventura County Superior Court Case  
No. 56-2022-00563317-CU-PO-VTA]

Action Filed: March 4, 2022  
Action Removed: April 15, 2022  
Trial Date: None Set

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**TO THIS HONORABLE COURT AND TO ALL PARTIES AND  
THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** pursuant to 28 U.S.C. sections 1332, 1441, and 1446, Defendants Merck & Co., Inc., Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., Organon & Co., and Organon LLC (collectively, “Defendants”) hereby give notice that the above-captioned action, pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Ventura, is removed to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. In support of the removal, Defendants respectfully state as follows:

1. On March 4, 2022, Plaintiff Katherine O’Brien filed a Complaint in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Ventura. The case is captioned *Katherine O’Brien v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, Ventura County Superior Court Case No. 56-2022-00563317-CU-PO-VTA. Attached to the Declaration of Nicole N. King (“King Decl.”) as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of the state court filings Defendants obtained, including the Complaint, Summons, and Civil Case Cover Sheet.

2. This case is properly removed to this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1441 because Defendants have satisfied the procedural requirements for removal and this Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.<sup>1</sup>

3. This action is among citizens of different states: (1) Plaintiff is, and was at the time the Complaint was filed, a citizen of California; (2) Merck & Co., Inc., is now, and was at the time this action commenced, a citizen of New Jersey; (3) Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. is now, and was at the time this action commenced, a citizen of New Jersey; (4) Organon & Co. is now, and was at the time this action

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<sup>1</sup> Defendants file this Notice of Removal and Removal of Action without submitting or consenting to the personal jurisdiction of this Court and expressly reserve the right to challenge this Court’s ability to exercise personal jurisdiction over Defendants in this case, including through a motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(2).

1 commenced, a citizen of Delaware and New Jersey; and (5) Organon LLC is now,  
2 and was at the time this action commenced, a citizen of Delaware and New Jersey.

3 4. Furthermore, the alleged amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000,  
4 exclusive of interest and costs, for the reasons more fully briefed below.

5 **I. PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL ARE MET**

6 5. This Notice of Removal and Removal of Action is timely filed under  
7 28 U.S.C. § 1446, as it is filed within 30 days of Defendants’ receipt of the initial  
8 pleading purporting to set forth the claims for relief on which this action is based.

9 6. Defendants were served with a copy of the Complaint on March 24,  
10 2022. The filing of this Notice of Removal and Removal of Action, therefore, is  
11 timely because Defendants are filing it “within 30 days after receipt by the  
12 defendant, through service or otherwise, of a copy of the initial pleading setting forth  
13 the claim for relief upon which such action or proceeding is based.” 28 U.S.C. §  
14 1446(b)(1).

15 7. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), Defendants attach to this Notice of  
16 Removal and Removal of Action, a copy of the Complaint, Summons, and Civil  
17 Case Cover Sheet. *See* King Decl., Ex. 1; *see also* Request for Judicial Notice  
18 (“RJN”), Ex. 1.

19 8. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 84(c), 1441(a), and 1446(a), this Notice of  
20 Removal and Removal of Action is being filed in the United States District Court  
21 for the Central District of California. Venue for this action is proper in this Court  
22 under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) because Ventura County is located within the United  
23 States District Court for the Central District of California. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 84(c).  
24 Accordingly, the Central District of California is the federal “district and division  
25 embracing the place where such action is pending.” 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).

26 9. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), Defendants are filing with the clerk of  
27 the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of Ventura, and serving  
28 upon Plaintiff’s counsel, a Notice to Adverse Party and State Court of Removal of

1 Action to Federal Court, including a true and correct copy of this Notice of Removal  
 2 and Removal of Action. Proof of the same will be filed with this Court.

3 10. Defendants have complied with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(A) insofar as  
 4 there are no other defendants that must join in or consent to removal. *See, e.g.*, 28  
 5 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(A) (“When a civil action is removed solely under section  
 6 1441(a), all defendants who have been properly joined and served must join in or  
 7 consent to the removal of the action.”). The other defendants, the unknown “DOES  
 8 1 – 10,” are not required to join in or consent to removal. *See United Computer Sys.,*  
 9 *Inc. v. AT & T Corp.*, 298 F.3d 756, 762 (9th Cir. 2002) (noting that the “rule of  
 10 unanimity” for removal does not apply to “nominal, unknown or fraudulently joined  
 11 parties”); *Fristoe v. Reynolds Metals Co.*, 615 F. 2d 1209, 1213 (9th Cir. 1980)  
 12 (holding that removal to federal court was proper as “the unknown defendants sued  
 13 as ‘Does’ need[ed] not be joined in a removal petition”); *Cont’l Ins. Co. v. Foss Mar.*  
 14 *Co.*, 2002 WL 31414315, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 23, 2002) (noting that “all defendants  
 15 in a state action must join in the petition for removal, except for nominal, unknown,  
 16 or fraudulently joined parties”). Thus, Defendants may remove without any other  
 17 parties’ concurrence.

18 11. No previous application has been made for the relief requested herein.

19 **II. REMOVAL IS PROPER BECAUSE THIS COURT HAS ORIGINAL**  
 20 **JURISDICTION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 AND 1441**

21 12. This Court has diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332,  
 22 1441 because this is a civil action among citizens of different states in which the  
 23 amount in controversy exceeds the sum of \$75,000, exclusive of costs and interest.

24 **A. There Is Complete Diversity Among The Parties**

25 13. This case is between “citizens of different States and in which citizens  
 26 or subjects of a foreign state are additional parties.” 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1). As  
 27 explained below, all defendants are diverse from Plaintiff.  
 28

a. Plaintiff Is A Citizen Of California

14. Plaintiff Katherine O'Brien ("Plaintiff") is, and was at the time of filing of the Complaint, a citizen of California. Compl. ¶ 7.

b. Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. Is A Citizen Of New Jersey

15. Plaintiff concedes that Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. is now, and was at the time that Plaintiff filed this action, a foreign corporation organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey with its principal place of business in New Jersey. *See* Compl. ¶ 11; King Decl. ¶¶ 4–5, Ex. 2, California Secretary of State Statement of Information for Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. (stating that Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. is registered within the jurisdiction of New Jersey); RJN, Ex. 2. Thus, Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. is a citizen of New Jersey for purposes of determining diversity. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1).

c. Merck & Co., Inc., Is A Citizen Of New Jersey

16. Plaintiff concedes that Merck & Co., Inc., is now, and was at the time that Plaintiff filed this action, a foreign corporation organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey with its principal place of business in New Jersey. *See* Compl. ¶ 11; King Decl. ¶¶ 6–7, Ex. 3, New Jersey Secretary of State Short Form Standing Certificate for Merck & Co., Inc., (stating that Merck & Co., Inc., is a domestic for-profit corporation registered within the jurisdiction of New Jersey); RJN, Ex. 3; *see also* King Decl. ¶¶ 8–9, Ex. 4, New Jersey Secretary of State Business Entity Status Report for Merck & Co., Inc., (stating that Merck & Co., Inc., is registered within the jurisdiction of New Jersey); RJN, Ex. 4. Thus, Merck & Co., Inc., is a citizen of New Jersey for purposes of determining diversity. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1).

d. Organon & Co. Is A Citizen Of Delaware And New Jersey

17. Plaintiff concedes that Organon & Co. is now, and was at the time that Plaintiff filed this action, a foreign corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in New Jersey. *See* Compl. ¶ 13; King Decl., Ex. 5, Delaware Division of Corporations Short Form Certificate

1 Standing Certificate for Organon & Co., (stating that Organon & Co. is a domestic  
 2 for-profit corporation registered within the jurisdiction of Delaware); RJN, Ex. 5;  
 3 *see also* King Decl., Ex. 6, New Jersey Secretary of State Short Form Standing  
 4 Certificate for Organon & Co., (stating that Organon & Co. is a foreign for-profit  
 5 corporation with its principal place of business within the jurisdiction of New  
 6 Jersey); RJN, Ex. 6. Thus, Organon & Co. is a citizen of both Delaware and New  
 7 Jersey for purposes of determining diversity. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1).

8 e. Organon LLC Is A Citizen Of Delaware And New Jersey

9 18. Plaintiff concedes that Organon LLC is now, and was at the time that  
 10 Plaintiff filed this action, a foreign limited liability company organized under the  
 11 laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in New Jersey. *See*  
 12 Compl. ¶ 13; King Decl., Ex. 7, Delaware Division of Corporations Short Form  
 13 Certificate Standing Certificate for Organon LLC (stating that Organon LLC is a  
 14 domestic limited liability company registered within the jurisdiction of Delaware);  
 15 RJN, Ex. 7; *see also* King Decl., Ex. 8, New Jersey Secretary of State Short Form  
 16 Standing Certificate for Organon LLC (stating that Organon LLC is a foreign for-  
 17 profit limited liability company with its principal place of business within the  
 18 jurisdiction of New Jersey); RJN, Ex. 8. Thus, Organon LLC is a citizen of both  
 19 Delaware and New Jersey for purposes of determining diversity. 28 U.S.C. §  
 20 1332(c)(1).<sup>2</sup>

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21  
 22  
 23  
 24 <sup>2</sup> Organon & Co. is the member of Organon LLC. *See* King Decl., Ex. 9, California  
 25 Secretary of State Statement of Information for Organon LLC (listing Organon &  
 26 Co. as membership for Organon LLC). The citizenship of entities other than  
 27 corporations is determined by the citizenship of their members. *See Carden v.*  
 28 *Arkoma Assocs.*, 494 U.S. 185 (1990); *Johnson v. Columbia Props. Anchorage, LP*,  
 437 F.3d 894, 899 (9th Cir. 2006). Because Organon & Co. is a citizen of New Jersey  
 and Delaware, Organon LLC is therefore deemed a citizen of those two states, as  
 well.



f. Citizenship Of The DOE Defendants Shall Not Be Considered

19. The citizenship of the DOE defendants shall not be considered for purposes of determining diversity jurisdiction, as these are fictitious defendants. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b) (“In determining whether a civil action is removable on the basis of the jurisdiction under section 1332(a) of this title, the citizenship of defendants sued under fictitious names shall be disregarded.”).<sup>3</sup>

20. Based on the above, there is complete diversity among Plaintiff and Defendants, and this Court has diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332. *See*

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<sup>3</sup>In the event that any DOE defendants are forum defendants, *i.e.*, citizens of California for diversity purposes, it is not a bar to removal under 28 U.S.C. section 1441(b), which provides that removal is allowed only if “none of the parties in interest properly joined and served as defendants is a citizen of the State in which such action is brought.” 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b). Under the plain language of Section 1441(b), the no forum defendant rule applies only once such defendant has been properly joined and served. *Id.*; *see also Allen v. Eli Lilly & Co.*, 2010 WL 3489366, at \*2 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 2, 2010) (denying motion to remand and upholding the removal of the action, finding the presence of local defendants did not preclude removal jurisdiction because no local defendant was a party to the action at the time of removal and complete diversity of the parties continues to exist after the local defendants were or are served and made parties); *Zirkin v. Shandy Media, Inc.*, 2019 WL 626138, at \*2 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 14, 2019) (denying motion to remand and upholding the forum defendants’ removal before service, finding “the Forum Defendant Rule did not bar an in-state defendant from removing an action before the defendant is served”); *May v. Haas*, 2012 WL 4961235, at \*3 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 16, 2012) (denying motion to remand and upholding the removal of the action, finding that the forum defendant had not been served at the time the non-forum defendant removed the case and complete diversity continues to exist between the parties after the forum defendant has been served); *Loewen v. McDonnell*, 2019 WL 2364413, at \*9 (N.D. Cal. June 5, 2019) (denying motion to remand, finding the removal was effective before any forum defendant was served and complete diversity continues to exist between the parties); *id.* at \*7 (holding “the Northern District of California has consistently held a defendant may remove an action prior to receiving proper service, even when the defendant resides in the state in which the plaintiff filed the state claim”); *Cucci v. Edwards*, 510 F. Supp. 2d 479, 482 (C.D. Cal. 2007) (holding that “a resident defendant who has not been served may be ignored in determining

(continued...)

*Owen Equip. & Erection Co. v. Kroger*, 437 U.S. 365, 373 (1978) (“diversity jurisdiction does not exist unless each defendant is a citizen of a different State from each plaintiff”).

**B. The Amount-In-Controversy Requirement Is Satisfied**

21. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 notwithstanding that Plaintiff does not allege a specific amount in controversy in the Complaint.<sup>4</sup>

22. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(c)(2):

If removal of a civil action is sought on the basis of the jurisdiction conferred by section 1332(a), the sum demanded in good faith in the initial pleading shall be deemed to be the amount in controversy, except that:

(A) the notice of removal may assert the amount in controversy if the initial pleading seeks . . . (ii) a money judgment, but the State practice either does not permit demand for a specific sum or permits recovery of damages in excess of the amount demanded; and

(B) removal of the action is proper on the basis of an amount in controversy asserted under subparagraph (A) if the district court finds, by the preponderance of the evidence, that the amount in controversy exceeds the amount specified in section 1332(a).

28 U.S.C. § 1446(c)(2)(A)–(B); Federal Courts Jurisdiction and Venue Clarification Act of 2011, Pub. L. 112–63, Dec. 7, 2011.

removability”); *City of Ann Arbor Employees’ Retirement Sys. v. Gecht*, 2007 WL 760568, at \*8 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 9, 2007) (holding that “[p]laintiff should have been cognizant of the fact that a nonresident defendant could remove a case without having been served”); *Republic W. Ins. Co. v. Int’l Ins. Co.*, 765 F. Supp. 628, 629 (N.D. Cal. 1991) (denying motion for remand where local defendant had not been served at time of removal).

<sup>4</sup> Defendants deny all allegations contained in Plaintiff’s Complaint and deny that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief sought.



23. When a plaintiff does not allege a specific amount for damages, the removing defendant need only show that the amount in controversy is “more likely than not” to exceed the jurisdictional amount of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. *Sanchez v. Monumental Life Ins. Co.*, 102 F.3d 398, 404 (9th Cir. 1996). Where the amount in controversy is not specified, courts look to the facts alleged in the complaint as well as in the notice of removal. *See Simmons v. PCR Tech.*, 209 F. Supp. 2d 1029, 1031 (N.D. Cal. 2002) (“Where the amount of damages sought by a plaintiff is unclear, defendant must prove facts supporting the jurisdictional amount by a preponderance of the evidence”); 28 U.S.C. § 1446(c)(2). Courts may receive extrinsic evidence to determine whether the amount in controversy is more likely than not to exceed \$75,000. *See Valdez v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 372 F.3d 1115, 1117 (9th Cir. 2004) (“[T]he amount-in controversy inquiry in the removal context is not confined to the face of the complaint.”). Indeed, courts may find an estimate of damages based upon damage awards in similar cases as sufficient evidence to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that a plaintiff’s claims exceed the jurisdictional limit. *See Karlsson v. Ford Motor Co.*, 140 Cal. App. 4th 1202, 1207 (2006) (awarding damages in excess of the jurisdictional amount of \$75,000 in product liability case); *Jones v. John Crane, Inc.*, 132 Cal. App. 4th 990, 997 (2005) (same).

24. While Plaintiff’s Complaint does not allege a specific amount in controversy, Plaintiff alleges that she “has sustained pecuniary loss and general damages in a sum exceeding the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.” Compl. ¶ 214, 231; King Decl. ¶ 3, Ex. 1. Further, it is facially evident that the amount in controversy is satisfied. Plaintiff alleges that she began taking brand and generic Singulair (also known as Montelukast) in or around 2015 through 2017 pursuant to a prescription by her healthcare provider. Compl. ¶ 8. Plaintiff alleges that as a result of taking Singulair, she “suffered neuropsychiatric injury including general anxiety, social anxiety, panic disorder, and depression.” Compl. ¶ 8.

25. Plaintiff alleges she became symptomatic while using Singulair®. Compl. ¶ 9. Plaintiff further alleges that she “has incurred medical expenses and will continue to incur expenses in connection with medical treatment as a result of these injuries.” Compl. ¶ 10. Plaintiff also alleges she “has endured and will continue to endure pain, suffering, mental anguish, trauma, and loss of enjoyment of life as a result of these injuries,” and “has suffered lost earnings and/or a loss of earning capacity, and other injuries and damages to be proven at trial.” Compl. ¶ 10.

26. Accordingly, Plaintiff asserts causes of action for: (1) Strict Liability - Design Defect; (2) Strict Liability - Failure To Warn; (3) Negligence; (4) Negligent Misrepresentation; (5) Breach Of Express Warranty; and (6) Breach Of Implied Warranty. Compl. ¶¶ 103–233. Plaintiff seeks to recover past and future general damages, past and future economic and special damages, loss of earnings and impaired earning capacity, medical expenses, past and future, punitive or exemplary damages, attorney’s fees, costs of suit incurred, for pre-judgment interest as provided by law, and for such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper. Compl. at 40:23-41:7.

27. Where, as here, a plaintiff alleges a serious psychological injury, California federal courts have found that the amount-in-controversy requirement is satisfied. *See, e.g., Bryant v. Apotex, Inc.*, 2012 WL 5933042, at \*4 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 27, 2012) (holding the amount-in-controversy requirement was met, although “complaint [did] not set forth a specific amount of damages,” because plaintiff sought “compensatory damages for injuries and severe pain lasting six months, severe emotional distress, and punitive damages”); *Campbell v. Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.*, 2006 WL 707291, at \*2–3 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 17, 2006) (holding the amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000 where plaintiffs asserted strict product liability, negligence, and breach of warranty claims, and sought compensatory damages, including lost wages and loss of earning capacity, medical expenses, and general damages).

28. California cases also reveal that jury awards and settlements based on conditions similar to those alleged by Plaintiff may exceed the \$75,000 jurisdictional amount. *See, e.g., Howard v. Doe Companies*, 2000 Jury Verdicts LEXIS 64660 (May 25, 2000) (settlement for \$150,000 for ephedrine-induced psychosis, including insomnia and racing thoughts, and ultimately depression); *Snyder v. Kaiser Found. Hosp.*, 1997 Jury Verdicts LEXIS 91524 (Sup. Ct. San Diego County June 1997) (arbitrator awarded \$360,000 where plaintiff experienced hallucinations after taking prescribed medication and incurred additional physical injuries as a result); *Confidential v. Confidential*, 2009 Jury Verdicts LEXIS 12779 (Sup. Ct. L.A. October 1994) (settled for \$150,000 for psychological problems and hallucinations resulting from Prozac prescription); *Boller v. Placer Union High Sch. Dist.*, Case No. SCV 7478, 2000 Jury Verdicts LEXIS 65056 (Sup. Ct. Auburn County, Apr. 14, 2001) (jury awarded \$158,750 for depression, insomnia, and anxiety); *Maher v. Ideal Computer Servs., Inc.*, Case No. RG07348498, 2009 Jury Verdicts LEXIS 410244 (Sup. Ct. Alameda County September, 2009) (awarding \$86,000 for depression, anxiety, and emotional distress); *Lantz Greene v. Yucaipa Towing Inc.*, Case No. RIC10022388, 2013 Jury Verdicts LEXIS 7608 (Sup. Ct. Riv. County June 11, 2013) (awarding \$540,000 in emotional distress, lost wages, and punitive damages).

29. Likewise, California federal courts recognize that the amount-in-controversy requirement is satisfied in analogous product liability cases alleging continuing medical care. *See, e.g., Hammarlund v. C.R. Bard, Inc.*, 2015 WL 5826780, at \*2 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 2, 2015) (holding it was “more likely than not” that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, given that the plaintiffs allege “severe” bodily injuries and “mental and physical pain and suffering” following the failure of defendant’s mesh implant product); *Zalta v. K2M, Inc.*, 2013 WL 12140470, at \*2 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2013) (finding that the defendant demonstrated, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the amount-in-controversy requirement was

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1 satisfied, given that the plaintiff sought “lost wages, hospital and medical expenses,  
2 general damages, and lost earning capacity” following the installment of a defective  
3 cervical plate); *Zachman v. Johnson & Johnson*, 2015 WL 7717190 (N.D. Cal. Nov.  
4 30, 2015) (amount-in-controversy requirement satisfied where prescription  
5 medication Levaquin allegedly caused the plaintiff’s peripheral neuropathy).

6 30. Considering the nature and extent of Plaintiff’s alleged injuries and  
7 damages, Plaintiff’s claims exceed this Court’s minimum \$75,000 jurisdictional  
8 limit.

9 31. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff’s state court action may be removed  
10 to this Court in accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1441  
11 because: (1) this is a civil action pending within the jurisdiction of this Court; (2) this  
12 action is among citizens of different states; and (3) the amount in controversy  
13 exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

14 32. This Notice of Removal and Removal of Action has been signed  
15 pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 11.

16 33. By filing the Notice of Removal and Removal of Action, Defendants  
17 do not waive any objections as to service, jurisdiction, venue, or any other defenses  
18 available at law, in equity or otherwise. Defendants intend no admission of fact or  
19 law by this Notice of Removal and Removal of Action and expressly reserve all  
20 defenses and motions. Defendants also reserve the right to amend or supplement  
21 this Notice of Removal and Removal of Action.

22 34. If Plaintiff seeks to remand this case to state court, Defendants  
23 respectfully ask that they be permitted to brief and argue the issue of this removal  
24 prior to any order remanding this case. In the event that the Court decides that  
25 remand is proper, Defendants ask that the Court retain jurisdiction and allow  
26 Defendants to file a motion asking this Court to certify any remand order for  
27 interlocutory review by the Ninth Circuit, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b).

1 **III. CONCLUSION**

2 In sum, Defendants hereby remove the above-captioned action from the  
3 Superior Court of the State of California, County of Ventura, to the United States  
4 District Court for the Central District of California.

5 Dated: April 15, 2022

**VENABLE LLP**

6  
7 By: /s/ Shannon E. Beamer

Shannon E. Beamer

8 Nicole N. King

9 Attorneys for Defendants  
10 MERCK & CO., INC.; MERCK  
11 SHARP & DOHME CORP.;  
12 ORGANON & CO.; and  
13 ORGANON LLC  
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**PROOF OF SERVICE**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA        )  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES    )       ss.

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is Venable LLP, 2049 Century Park East, Suite 2300, Los Angeles, California.

On April 15, 2022, I served a copy of the foregoing document(s) described as **NOTICE OF REMOVAL AND REMOVAL OF ACTION UNDER 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 (a), 1441(b), AND 1446 BY DEFENDANTS MERCK & CO., INC., MERCK SHARP & DOHME CORP., ORGANON & CO., AND ORGANON LLC** on the interested parties in this action addressed as follows:

Kevin P. Roddy,  
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*Counsel for Plaintiff*

☒ By placing true copies thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope(s) addressed as stated above.

☒ **BY MAIL (FRCP 5(b)(2)(C)):** I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service. Under that practice such envelope(s) is deposited with the U.S. postal service on the same day this declaration was executed, with postage thereon fully prepaid at, in the ordinary course of business.

I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the Bar of this Court at whose direction the service was made. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the above is true and correct.

Executed on **April 15, 2022**, at Los Angeles, California.

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ Samantha Jackson  
Samantha Jackson